IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A medical aspirator for aspirating thrombus, phlegm, or a body fluid such as blood, comprising:

an aspiration port;

a reciprocating type electric pump for performing vacuum aspiration;

a ventilation path which connects the aspiration port and the electric pump;

an exhaust port; and

an atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve provided in the ventilation path for releasing a negative pressure in the ventilation path and providing atmospheric pressure in the ventilation path, the atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve being adapted to open simultaneously with stopping of the electric pump and to close simultaneously with starting of the electric pump.

2. (original) A medical aspirator according to claim 1, wherein the electric pump is a diaphragm pump.

3. (original) A medical aspirator according to claim 1,

wherein the atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve is an electromagnetic valve.

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4. (original) A medical aspirator according to claim 2, wherein the atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve is an electromagnetic valve.

5-8. (canceled)

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9. (original) A medical aspirator according to claim 1, further comprising a clogging detection means which detects clogging in an aspiration catheter or an aspiration tube during an aspiration operation.

10. (withdrawn) A medical aspirator for aspirating thrombus, phlegm, or a body fluid such as blood, comprising:

an aspiration port;

a reciprocating type electric pump for performing vacuum aspiration;

a ventilation path connecting the aspiration port and the electric pump;

an exhaust port; and

a clogging detection means which detects clogging in an aspiration catheter or an aspiration tube during an aspiration operation.

11. (canceled)

12. (withdrawn) A medical aspirator according to claim 10,

wherein the medical aspirator is adapted for a percutaneous thrombus removal operation.

13. (withdrawn) A medical aspirator according to claim 10,

wherein the clogging detection means measures a change in a flow rate of an aspirate.

14. (withdrawn) A medical aspirator according to claim 12,

wherein the clogging detection means measures a change in a flow rate of an aspirate.

15. (withdrawn) A medical aspirator according to claim 10,

wherein the clogging detection means measures a change in a weight of an aspirate sampling bottle.

16. (withdrawn) A medical aspirator according to claim 12,

wherein the clogging detection means measures a change in a weight of an aspirate sampling bottle.

17. (withdrawn) A medical aspirator according to claim 10,

wherein the clogging means measures a change in an amount of aspiration dropping in an aspirate sampling bottle.

18. (withdrawn) A medical aspirator according to claim 12,

wherein the clogging means measures a change in an amount of aspiration dropping in an aspirate sampling bottle.

19. (withdrawn) A medical aspirator according to claim 10, further comprising clogging warning means for informing an

operator that clogging in the aspiration tube or the aspiration catheter has occurred.

20. (withdrawn) A medical aspirator according to claim 10, further comprising:

fixing means for fixing an aspirate sampling bottle in position for aspiration; and

bottle illumination means for illuminating the inside of the aspirate sampling bottle.

21. (original) A medical aspirator according to claim 1, further comprising a cell for a power supply.

22. (withdrawn) A medical aspirator according to claim 10, further comprising a cell for a power supply.

23. (original) A medical aspirator according to claim 10, further comprising an atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve provided in the ventilation path for releasing a negative pressure in the ventilation path and providing atmospheric pressure in the ventilation path, the atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve being adapted to open simultaneously with stopping of the electric

pump and to close simultaneously with starting of the electric pump.